

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Sunday, July 6th 2025

Race 1

#3 One More Doll

#4 Texensis

#1 Her Obsession

#6 Hidden Image

#3 ONE MORE DOLL showed little in tougher spots as a two-year-old. She did post good speed figures in her November 30 start; goes for a new barn and doesn't have much to beat here. #4 TEXENSIS was put on the shelf after being vet scratched on October 17. She has the most consistent Beyer figures in the race; contender off the shelf. #1 HER OBSESSION pressed the pace while racing a bit wide and faded when competing in a similar spot on June 19. She figures to be tracking the pace here. #6 HIDDEN IMAGE adds blinkers and removes lasix for her return to the races. She showed speed in both of her juvenile attempts; we'll see how far she can go now.

Race 2

#7 Gilt Edge

#2 Summer Commander

#8 El Cohete

#4 Secret Threat

#7 GILT EDGE was very rank while racing wide and still managed to run a close fourth while attracting a claim for this price on May 25. He runs the risk of getting a similar trip again but if he can work out a trip he should be very live. #2 SUMMER COMMANDER has been second best behind two very solid foes in his two tries so far this season. Never worse than third on turf, he draws well and has the speed to be well positioned. #8 EL COHETE was a length behind Summer Commander when finishing third on June 15. He has to overcome a tough post but has never been worse than second on the turf. #4 SECRET THREAT had a bit of early trouble and failed to fire in his most recent start on May 25. He is at his best on turf and should appreciate the surface switch in his third start off of the bench.

Race 3

#4 Posturing

#1 Your Valentino

#6 Ry Pie

#3 The New Maybe

#4 POSTURING was wide turning for home and ran on to finish a decent fifth, beaten two lengths for the win when kicking off his season on June 15. He could move forward in his second start off of the bench. #1 YOUR VALENTINO was pressed on the lead, shook loose in early stretch but failed to hold in his first start off of the claim on June 15, a length better than Posturing. He could have company on the lead from The New Maybe but may not need the lead to win and looks like a serious threat. #6 RY PIE finished gamely down the outside to snatch second from Your Valentino last time. Consistent check-earner could have a good setup if Your Valentino

and The New Maybe hook up early. #3 THE NEW MAYBE dueled on the lead and was outkicked by Good Sin when racing for \$15,000 on May 30. Speedy type was a vet scratch from the aforementioned June 15 race.

Race 4

#6 Moddassah

#2 English Jubilee

#4 Shamateur

#7 Conacher

#6 MODDASSAH made a rally but had to settle for fourth money when taking the drop in for \$7,500 on June 13. I liked his turf try against tougher at the Fair Grounds in December and would not be surprised to see him fare well here. #2 ENGLISH JUBILEE made a late rally to be fourth (placed third) when kicking off her season in a Tapeta sprint on May 10. She is definitely better on turf and could be live as she takes on the boys. #4 SHAMATEUR makes his first start of the season here. His speed figures are among the best in this field and he could be the quickest out of the gate, but I don't think turf is his preferred surface and he will have to be ready off of the seven-month break. #7 CONACHER takes the plunge in for \$15,000 after coming up empty for \$40,000 on May 31. His only turf start was his career debut sprinting; deserves another look on the surface.

Race 5

#8 Warhol - Best Bet

#5 Garden of War

#7 Human Desire

#1 Stitches

#8 WARHOL has been routing at Churchill, showing speed and giving way late. I think he will love cutting back to a sprint where he will likely not be on the lead, and should have a hot pace to finish into. #5 GARDEN OF WAR overtook the pacesetter turning for home and kicked clear to a good-looking maiden score on May 24. He rallied well in his debut on turf and should have no problem with this course. #7 HUMAN DESIRE's only turf try came in a route at Gulfstream where he raced three-wide and finished evenly. He makes his first start for the Drexler barn here and could be an interesting player with a good trip. #1 STITCHES was sidelined after his impressive debut win as a two-year-old. Son of Vekoma has been breezing sharply in preparation for his return.

Race 6

#2 Corsia Veloce

#7 Timeframe

#3 Skydigger

#6 Toast the Ghost

#2 CORSIA VELOCE is by 15% juvenile debut sire Practical Joke, out of a mare who produced Corsi, who went two-for-two as a juvenile. She has some sharp-looking breezes. #7 TIMEFRAME worked evenly in company with a stablemate from the gate on June 11. Not This Time is an 18% juvenile debut sire; the dam has produced Grade 1-winning two-year-old Union Strike. #3 SKYDIGGER is by 2-for-7 juvenile debut sire Maxfield, out of a mare who has produced debut-winner Moon

Landing. She outworked a stablemate from the gate on June 14. #6 TOAST THE GHOST has the advantage of racing experience, finishing a game second by just $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths on June 15. Blinkers are being added.

Race 7

#4 El Diablito

#9 Scuderia

#2 Holiday Snooze

#8 Shinigami

#4 EL DIABLITO chased the pace and made a bid turning for home before evening out in her debut on June 8; in with a shot to improve in her second attempt. #9 SCUDERIA stalked the pace and bid turning for home, dueling to the wire and coming up a head short when kicking off his season on June 1. He is arguably the one to beat in this wide open affair. #2 HOLIDAY SNOOZE posted the best last-race Beyer in the field when earning a 67 for a rallying runner-up finish in the same race that El Diablito exits. He has raced well in all three of his tries so far this season. #8 SHINIGAMI threw in a clunker as the favourite when returning from Turfway on May 11, then was a vet scratch on June 15. Nevertheless he takes another shot at the \$40,000 price, and I do think the longer Tapeta sprints are what he wants; worth a look at the right price.

Race 8

#2 Western Whirl

#6 Lucky Score

#7 Society's Thunder

#1 Gas Me Up

#2 WESTERN WHIRL was never threatened when going gate to wire against N1X/\$32,000 foes on June 8 in his first start as a gelding. He has raced well on turf and looks like the clear speed again. #6 LUCKY SCORE was nosed out by Arabian Prince when finishing on the wrong lead on June 15. Multiple Graded Stakes-winner is the class of this field and an obvious threat but may not be one to take at too short a price. #7 SOCIETY'S THUNDER was disqualified from a win at this level on May 18, then came back with a solid third-place effort in an N3X/\$80,000 on the inner turf on June 1. A stellar claim for these connections, he often races well at a good price. #1 GAS ME UP ran a decent fifth in an inner turf route in his first start off of the layoff on June 1. He won sprinting over this course last year and could be live on the cutback for his second start off of the bench.

Race 9

#2 Jaggerstogun

#4 Bankingonamiracle

#6 Take Charge Sousi

#7 Criminal Intent

#2 JAGGERSGOTAGUN put in a good run to be third when kicking off his season on turf on June 15. He could land a perfect inside stalking trip if Dark Danger puts early pressure on Bankingonamiracle. #4 BANKINGONAMIRACLE dueled on the lead and was outkicked late, missing pace by a head when finishing third on June 8. If Dark Danger can not keep up with him early he has a serious chance to go gate to wire. #6 TAKE CHARGE SOUSI was wide on the turn and failed to threaten in the same race that Bankingonamiracle exits. With a better trip he could be more of a threat. #7 CRIMINAL finished on his left lead when fifth in the aforementioned June 8 race; could be live in his second start off of the bench.

Race 10

#1 Weller Green

#12 Monterey Bay

#4 Magna Time

#8 Perfectworks

#9 Paradise Perfect

#1 WELLER GREEN was gelded over the winter and now returns after being a recent scratch from an off-turf race. Closing type will be hoping for a solid pace to run into. #12 MONTEREY BAY finished gamely but was second best in a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ furlong dash on the Churchill lawn on June 6. He may have to use some speed to get position from the 12 hole but that may not be a problem with the stretch out to seven furlongs. #4 MAGNA TIME is by 18% debut sire Not This Time, out of debut and restricted Stakes-winning mare Silver Magna. He had a very fast gate workout in company with a stablemate on June 8. #8 PERFECTWORKS steps up in class after a pair of good third place efforts at the OS/\$40,000 level. Goldencents is a 13% turf sire; he got to breeze over the training turf on June 29. #9 PARADISE PERFECT rallied very strongly to be beaten a neck against OS/\$40,000 company on May 30. He is clearly best in turf sprints; we'll see how he handles the rise to maiden allowance company.